



Los Angeles Valley College

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LA VALLEY COLLEGE NAMED A 2011 TREE CAMPUS USA **BY THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION AND TOYOTA**

**First Community College in California and First College in Los Angeles
to receive this unique distinction for its urban forest**

Lincoln, Neb. – The Arbor Day Foundation has named Los Angeles Valley College a 2011 Tree Campus USA in honor of its commitment to effective community forestry management. This is the first year of recognition for Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC), and it is the first community college in California to be selected for the honor.

Los Angeles Valley College achieved the designation by meeting the required five core standards for sustainable campus forestry: a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance and the sponsorship of student service-learning projects.

“Students throughout the country are passionate about sustainability and community improvement, which makes Los Angeles Valley College’s emphasis on well-maintained and healthy trees so important,” said John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “By achieving Tree Campus USA recognition, Los Angeles Valley College will set an example for other colleges and universities and give students a chance to give back to both their campus community and the community at-large.”

Tree Campus USA, a national program launched in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation, honors colleges and universities and their leaders for promoting healthy trees and engaging students and staff in the spirit of conservation. Tree Campus USA is supported by a generous grant from Toyota.

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LAVC Named a Tree Campus USA

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“Los Angeles Valley College is proud to be the first community college in California and the first college in the city of Los Angeles to be distinguished as a Tree Campus USA,” said Dr. A. Susan Carleo, president of Los Angeles Valley College. “Our students, faculty and staff worked very closely on infusing sustainability into our curriculum, and we are committed to the preservation of LAVC’s vibrant urban forest so that it can be appreciated in the generations to come.”

LAVC’s urban forest was established by early faculty members of the college’s Biology department. Comprised of more than 1,600 of trees, LAVC has a diverse mixture of trees and plants that not only serves as an educational tool, but helps to inspire a college-wide commitment to sustainability. In addition, the college developed a Tree Master Plan to use as a guidebook for the future growth of its urban forest. The LAVC Tree Master Plan is available online at <http://www.lavc.edu/revitalizingvalley/urbanforest.html>.

During 2011, the Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota helped campuses throughout the country plant 30,000 trees, and Tree Campus USA colleges and universities have invested more than \$22 million in campus forest management. More information about the Tree Campus USA program is available at www.arborday.org/TreeCampusUSA.

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ABOUT THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION

The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit conservation and education organization of one million members, with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information on the Foundation and its programs can be found at www.arborday.org.

ABOUT TOYOTA

Toyota (NYSE: TM) established operations in the United States in 1957 and currently operates 10 manufacturing plants. Toyota directly employs nearly 30,000 in the U.S. and its investment here is currently valued at more than \$18 billion, including sales and manufacturing operations, research and development, financial services and design.

Toyota is committed to being a good corporate citizen in the communities where it does business and believes in supporting programs with long-term sustainable results. Toyota supports numerous organizations across the country, focusing on education, the environment and safety. Since 1991, Toyota has contributed over half a billion dollars to philanthropic programs in the U.S. For more information on Toyota's commitment to improving communities nationwide, visit www.toyota.com/philanthropy.

ABOUT LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Los Angeles Valley College is a public two-year college located in the heart of the San Fernando Valley. Since 1949, Valley College has been meeting the needs of the San Fernando Valley community by providing transfer education, career technical education and lifelong learning opportunities. Valley College serves approximately 20,000 students, from the Los Angeles suburbs of Van Nuys, Valley Village, Studio City, Sherman Oaks, Encino, Lake Balboa, Panorama City, Sun Valley and Burbank. For more information, visit www.lavc.edu.